

COMMENTS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on 01/10/2005. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-33 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicants have not amended, added or canceled any claims. As such, claims 1-33 remain pending. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims.

All of the Applicant's independent claims stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,953,339 (hereinafter "the Baldwin reference"). The Baldwin reference is clearly directed, as is the Applicant's claimed subject matter, to the switching of an AAL2 packet through an ATM switch core. However, the Applicant respectfully submits the "switching flow" disclosed by Baldwin is inherently different than the switching flow claimed by the present application, and that, as a consequence, the Baldwin reference fails to anticipate the Applicant's claims.

In the switching of a AAL2 packet, the switching flow of the Baldwin reference and the switching flow taught by the Applicant's specification "replace" incoming CID and VPI/VCI information with egress CID and VPI/VCI information. That is, an ATM cell used to transport an AAL2 packet will arrive at ingress port having a first combination of VPI/VCI and CID values, and, will be emitted from an egress port having a different combination of VPI/VCI information. See, Figure 7 of Baldwin and Figures 3 and 4 of the Applicant's specification.

However, a pertinent difference between Baldwin's flow and Applicant's flow is "where" this replacement is effected. In the Baldwin reference it is on the ingress side. That is, referring to Figure 9 of Baldwin, an ingress ATM cell arriving at TA 705-1 will have its CID and VPI/VCI information "swapped" with new VPI/VCI and CID information by TA 705-1 (i.e., on the ingress side). The new VPI/VCI information is used to switch the ATM cell to the correct egress port (e.g., TA 715-2). See, the Baldwin reference, Col. 7, line 65 through Col. 8, line 12.

By contrast, the switching flow taught by the Applicant's specification effects this replacement on the egress side. Figure 4 of the Applicant's specification provides tabular information maintained by an AAL2 switch engine on the egress side of an ATM cell's switching flow. See, paragraph [0016] and [0042] of the Applicant's specification. In order to effect this egress side replacement, the Applicant's process sends attaches an additional label, the egress connection identification label (EID), on the ingress side, which is switched through the switch core, and used as a lookup parameter by the egress switch engine to retrieve the correct egress VPI/VCI and CID information.

Because Baldwin does not use this approach, Baldwin does not teach or suggest the use of an egress identification label.

Because each of the Applicant's independent claims recite an egress identification label, each of the Applicant's independent claims can not be anticipated by the Baldwin reference. Therefore all of the Applicant's claims are allowable.

Because the Applicant has demonstrated the patentability of all pending independent claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable. The Applicant's silence with respect to the dependent claims should not be construed as an admission by the Applicant that the Applicant is complicit with the Examiner's rejection of these claims. Because the Applicant has demonstrated the patentability of the independent claims, the Applicant need not substantively address the theories of rejection applied to the dependent claims.

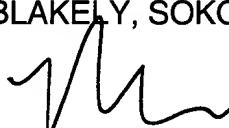
If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Robert B. O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _____

6/10/05



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